

40-①

beginning up work in P'yung Yang. Moffatt's
P'yung Yang, Korea
January 12, 1894

40

Dear Dr. Ellinwood

It is with
cause for much gratitude that
I write to you concerning the
beginnings of work in this
place. The mission having
finally relieved me of all
work in Seoul that I might
give my whole attention to
the work of this new station,
I came here in November
to take up a nomadic life
until such time as a residence
here seems advisable.

Intending to spend the winter
in this city - for the past two
months I have been living
in a room in the house
purchased in our helper's name.

The time has been spent
 allowing of the impressions made
 during former visits, gaining friends
 whom I could, and in purchasing
 a ^{goat} ^{all day long} ^{to} ^{be} ^{used} ^{for} ^{the} ^{purpose} ^{of} ^{the} ^{mission}
 a room which serves me as
 reception-room, study, dining-room
 and bed-room is what the
 natives call a "sarang", that
 is, a room open to anyone
 and everyone at all times
 day or night. Thus privacy
 is out of the question and
 such a run of visitors from
 early morning until midnight
 is there when that I could
 hardly get time to rest or eat.
 However I do break away at
 times in order to get some fresh
 air and exercise, and on these
 days I have been able to
 take to many, to distribute tracts
 and to make my presence more

widely known. Have been
 invited into a number of houses
 to talk to groups of people who,
 having read one of the tracts,
 desired to know more of the
 truth. I have also, with our
 helper, taken on walks to
 surrounding villages and from
 these and others there has
 been a constant stream of in-
 quirers. There are now in
 this region hundreds of people
 reading the tracts and discuss-
 ing the gospel story. I am told
 that great numbers would be
 more than glad to accept the
 new truth were they not afraid
 of persecution and ridicule.
 Many look upon the ^{entrance} of the
 gospel as a harbinger of better times
 for the oppressed people and
 wish it all success in gaining
 adherents. I hear of a good many

40 - ②

who are secretly praying to the true God. At the same time the great mass of people, as usual, look upon the truth with suspicion, ridicule and hatred. Since our helper came in the spring Sunday services have been regularly held, attended at times by 2 or 3, but gradually leading up, in the fall, to the gathering of a Class of Catechumens around which as a nucleus the number of constant attendants has been increasing. Those who come have been subject to scorn and ridicule and are marked men in the neighborhood. When it became known that some of them had identified themselves with us, and openly professed to their friends that they were "Jesus doctrine" men, every

40-42 2
effort was made to laugh them
out of it and to lead them to
return to their sinful habits
which they had forsaken. They
were roundly abused as being
unfilial, since it is known
that Christians give up ancestral
worship, and they were told
they would have their heads taken
off as well those of the Romanists
some 30 ^{years} ^{ago}. They have
stood all this nobly, tho there
have been some lapses into
sin. ^{What it costs to be a Christian in this}
The struggle of one man
has been of intense interest.
He is an innkeeper and merchant
who has been a great drinker
and gambler - yet among Koreans
a respectable man and one
whose acquaintances are numerous
throughout the whole region.
He came out boldly as a
Christian and soon was a

cracked man - the butt of all
 the jokes and ridicule and abuse
 which could be heaped upon him.
 Taking it all good naturedly he
 became more & more firm in
 his faith - but has had a
 hard struggle against drink.
 His former friends entered into
 a conspiracy to make him fall.
 Day after day they came tempting
 him, insisting that he should
 drink with them according to
 Korean custom and roundly abusing
 him as false to his friends.
 Time and again has he fled
 from them, coming in here that
 he might not yield and that he
 might gain strength in prayer.
 Several times he has fallen
 much to his own and our grief
 but the Lord is his keeper and
 the victory is sure.
 So great is the change in him

that his wife
 who call him
 rejoice in him
 while ridiculing
 a Christian, he
 having done the
 favor in Leeds
 his end ways.
 Through this man
 news of the Jews
 scattered.
 For several month
 men have been
 dante of our
 Wednesday evening
 last week the
 was examined
 January 7th. Light
 lily baptized
 the Lord's supper
 joyful day to
 me for our sin
 great longing

40-6
ched man - the butt of all
jokes and ridicule and abuse
to could be heaped upon him
ing it all good naturally he
me more & more firm in
faith - but has had a
d struggle against drink.
Former friends entered into
conspiracy to make him fall
after day they came tempting
insisting that he should
to with them according to
a custom and roundly abusing
as false to his friends
and again has he fled
them, coming in here that
might not yield and that he
to gain strength in prayer.
at times he has fallen
to his own and our grief
the Lord is his keeper and
victory is sure
great is the change in him

that his wife and brother
who call him "Crazy" yet
rejoice in his reformation and
while ridiculing him for believing
a Christian, look upon us as
having done them the greatest
favor in leading him to forsake
his evil ways.

Through this man's conversion the
news of the Gospel has been widely
extended.

For several months ten or more
men have been regular atten-
dants of our Sabbath service and
Wednesday evening prayer meeting.
Last week the class of Catechumens
was examined and on Sunday
January 7th eight men were pub-
licly baptized and partook of
the Lord's supper. It was a
joyful day to Mr. Swan and to
me for our limited prayer and
great longing has been to see

40-②

souls gathered into a church of Christ - men whose faith should stand in demonstration of the Spirit and of power. Two others were publicly received into the Catechumen Class.

The Lord has thus been working even in this ^{the} most wicked city of Korea and a beginning has been made in calling out the Lord's own.

Two of these men are about 40 years of age, the others being young men between 20 and 30 years. They are a praying band given to earnest study of God's word.

I feel more than ever encouraged and am now praying that the way may be more clearly opened for Mr. Lee and Dr. Levin to join me. I fear that it is not yet advisable for them to attempt a permanent residence here.

40-2 3

Our Methodist brethren expect to send some one here in the spring with a view to gaining possession of the property over which trouble occurred last spring and I fear that the coming of so many will again arouse suspicion and perhaps open opposition.

My own course is clear - as I am ^{now} free to give all my time to work in this Province, alternating between this City and Eui ju as headquarters and remaining in the Province as long as a passport allows and my health holds out. With much travelling - not the best of fare - cramped quarters and a malarial district I may be compelled to spend part of the summer elsewhere resting and recuperating forces, until such time as we can secure

property more healthfully located.
I am situated just at present.
Sincerely yours,
C

44-199
As I have long wished to be
in direct contact with the people
living in the midst of them, meeting
them every day and all day, entering
into their lives and having them
enter into mine. (Sometimes how
free in ways not very easy to
endure.)

I am certainly making friends and
having the opportunity to do a great
deal of direct personal work in
preaching, instructing, enlightening and
exhorting. With the Baptism of
the Spirit - for which I look and
long - there will certainly come
a harvest of souls of which I
believe we are reaping the first-
fruits as an earnest of what
is to come.

I shall leave for Euiju in Feb-
ruary hoping that the death of
our Evangelist Park has not
left that little band demoralized.

Asking for special prayers for the
guidance of the Spirit upon the
work of the opening of this new
station and with prayers for the
continued blessing of God upon all
your labors.

Sincerely yours,

Samuel A. Moffitt

Just as soon as Dr. Irvine can
establish himself here and begin
work we shall expect to have
a hospital here of some kind -
even if it consists of but one
little Korean room 8 foot square.
In our plans for a hospital, what
encouragement and help can we
expect from the Board. I have
thought it barely possible that through
Dr. Allen we might get Government
permission to establish a hospital.